

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of supplying information, according to Claim 1 ~~22~~, wherein:

said network includes the Internet;

~~1~~ said data updating step, said data backing-up step, and said retrieving step are performed by a WWW (World Wide Web) server ~~which supplies~~ supplying a Web page via said Internet; and

~~2~~ said update data ~~and said backup data~~ include an index file describing a link to another Web page.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of supplying information, according to Claim 7, ~~wherein further comprising forming~~ said index file is in the form of an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) file.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of supplying information, according to Claim 8, ~~wherein further comprising linking said update data and said backup data include~~ an image file ~~linked to said HTML file~~ as part of the update data.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of supplying information, according to Claim 8, ~~wherein further comprising linking said update data and said backup data include~~ an audio file ~~linked to said HTML file~~ as part of the update data.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method of supplying information~~, according to Claim 8, ~~wherein further comprising linking said update data and said backup data include a~~ program file linked to said HTML file.

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12. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method of supplying information~~, according to Claim ~~8~~ 17, ~~further comprising, wherein an automatic the~~ updating step is performed automatically ~~in which~~ at a predetermined time of each day as the at least a specified update time, a retrieval file name having added data representing an updating time coincident with the current time is retrieved from said retrieval storage area, and update data having the retrieval file name found is written into said open storage area in an overwriting fashion.

13. (Currently Amended): A storage medium on which an information supplying program is stored, said information supplying program comprising:

a data updating step in which data stored in an open storage area allowed to be freely accessed via a network is replaced with update data at a specified time;

a data backing-up step in which a retrieval file name is produced by adding data, which represents a date and time when the updating step is to ~~should~~ be performed, to ~~the~~ a file name of said update data, said retrieval file name is ~~assigned to~~ included with backup data produced from said update data to form a backup retrieval file, and said backup data retrieval file is saved in a retrieval storage area; and

a retrieving step in which the backup data retrieval file having a the retrieval file name corresponding to an updating time specified via said network is retrieved from said

retrieval storage area, and the retrieved backup retrieval file data is transferred via said network to a client which has requested said retrieved backup retrieval file data.

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14. (Currently Amended): A The storage medium ~~on which an information supplying program is stored~~, according to Claim 13, said information supplying program further comprising an automatic updating step in which at a predetermined time of each day, a backup retrieval file having a retrieval file name having added data representing an updating time coincident with the current time is retrieved from said retrieval storage area, and retrieved update data from the backup retrieval file having the retrieval file name found is written overwritten into said open storage area ~~in an overwriting fashion as said update data~~ in said updating step.

15. (Currently Amended): An information supplying apparatus, comprising:
a data updating apparatus for replacing data stored in an open storage area, which is allowed to be freely accessed via a network, with update data at a specified time;
a data backing-up apparatus for producing a retrieval file name by adding data, which represents a date and time when updating ~~should~~ is to be performed, to ~~the~~ a file name of said update data, assigning said retrieval file name to the backup data produced from said update data to form a backup retrieval file, and saving said backup retrieval file data in a retrieval storage area; and
a retrieving apparatus for searching said retrieval storage area for the backup data retrieval file having a the retrieval file name corresponding to an updating time specified via

said network and transferring the retrieved backup retrieval file data via said network to a client which has requested said retrieved backup retrieval file data.

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16. (Currently amended): ~~An~~ The information supplying apparatus; according to Claim 15, further comprising an automatic updating apparatus for, at a predetermined time of each day, retrieving a backup retrieval file having the retrieval file name having added data representing an updating time coincident with the current time from said retrieval storage area, and writing replacing the data stored in the open storage area by overwriting the data stored in the open storage area with update data having the retrieval file name found into said open storage area in an ~~overwriting~~ fashion.

17. (New) A method of storing and retrieving data, comprising the steps of:
specifying update data to update current data in a data file stored in an open storage area freely accessed via a network using an associated file name;
specifying update conditions including at least a specified update time of day for updating the current data with the update data;
performing the updating of the current data with the update data in accordance with the specified update condition;
modifying the accessible file name to include an indication of the specified update conditions to form a retrieval file name;
combining the retrieval file name with at least the update data to form a back-up retrieval file; and

saving the back-up retrieval file in a retrieval storage area.

18. (New) The method according to Claim 17, further comprising the step of limiting access to said retrieval storage area via said network.

19. (New) The method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of forming the open storage area and the retrieval storage area in different directories of the same storage device.

20. (New) The method of Claim 18, further comprising limiting the update data to only portions of the current data that have changed.

21. (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein the saving the back-up retrieval file step includes saving only the portions of the current data that have changed as the update data added to the retrieval file name:

22. (New) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:
comparing a client request to the specified update conditions in the stored retrieval file names of the back-up retrieval files saved in the retrieval storage area to determine the back-up retrieval file to be retrieved; and
retrieving the back-up retrieval file indicated by the client request.